

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for controlling access to a resource of a plurality of resources, the method comprising the steps of:  
one or more processors creating and storing in a filesystem of an Operating System a plurality of files that each represents a different resource of the plurality of resources;  
the one or more processors assigning an access value to a file attribute of a file that represents the resource, wherein the file attribute is used by the Operating System to manage file access, wherein the access value corresponds to a combination of a particular role and the resource;  
the one or more processors receiving user-identifying information from a user requesting access to the resource, wherein the user-identifying information comprises a role associated with the user, wherein the role is determined from a user identifier uniquely associated with the user and from a group identifier associated with a group that includes the user;  
the one or more processors receiving a resource identifier associated with the resource;  
the one or more processors creating an access identifier based on the user-identifying information and the resource identifier, wherein the access identifier is formatted as a file attribute that is used by the Operating System to manage file access;  
the one or more processors calling the Operating System to perform a file operation on the file, wherein calling the Operating System includes providing the access identifier to the Operating System; and

the one or more processors granting the user access to the resource only when the

Operating System call successfully performs the file operation, wherein the

Operating System call successfully performs the file operation if the access  
identifier matches the access value;

wherein the file operation on the file representing the resource is selected from a group

consisting of opening the file, closing the file, deleting the file, reading from the  
file, writing to the file, executing the file, appending to the file, reading a file  
attribute, and writing a file attribute.

2. (original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the access identifier comprises:  
a first set of bits for storing a role identifier, wherein the role identifier is associated with  
the role; and  
a second set of bits for storing the resource identifier.
3. (original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein:  
the step of creating an access identifier based on the user-identifying information and the  
resource identifier comprises formatting the access identifier as a group identifier  
file attribute; and  
the step of calling the Operating System to perform an operation on the file representing  
the resource comprises:  
assigning the access identifier to a group identifier attribute of an  
Operating System process; and  
calling an Operating System routine from the Operating System process to  
perform the operation on the file representing the resource.

4. (original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of calling the Operating System to perform an operation on the file representing the resource comprises comparing the access identifier to an identifier included in an Access Control List file attribute associated with the file representing the resource, wherein the Access Control List file attribute includes the identifiers of all users and all groups of users allowed to access the file representing the resource.
5. (canceled)
6. (previously presented) A method as recited in Claim 1, the method further comprising the steps of:  
reading a permission bit associated with the file representing the resource, wherein the permission bit corresponds to the operation performable on the file representing the resource;  
based on the operation on the file indicated by the permission bit, determining a resource operation that is performable on the resource; and  
granting the user the privilege of performing the resource operation on the resource only when the permission bit allows the operation to be performed on the file representing the resource.
7. (previously presented) A method as recited in Claim 1, the method further comprising the steps of:  
opening the file representing the resource;

- reading from the file representing the resource a permission indicator associated with a resource operation; and
- enabling the user to perform the resource operation on the resource only when the permission indicator indicates that the user is allowed to perform the resource operation on the resource.
8. (canceled)
9. (previously presented) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the file attribute used by the Operating System to manage file access is a group identifier file attribute.
10. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for controlling access to a resource of a plurality of resources, the method comprising the steps of:  
one or more processors assigning an access value to a group identifier file attribute of a file that represents the resource, wherein the group identifier file attribute is used by the Operating System to manage file access, wherein the access value is uniquely determined by a combination of a particular role and the resource;  
the one or more processors receiving a user identifier from a user requesting access to the resource, wherein the user identifier is uniquely associated with the user;  
the one or more processors receiving a group identifier associated with a group to which the user belongs;  
the one or more processors based on the user identifier and the group identifier, determining a role associated with the user, wherein a role identifier is uniquely associated with the role;

the one or more processors receiving a resource identifier associated with the resource,  
wherein each resource of the plurality of resources is represented by a different  
file stored in a filesystem of an Operating System;  
the one or more processors constructing an access identifier on the basis of the role  
identifier and the resource identifier, wherein the access identifier conforms to the  
format of a group identifier file attribute that is used by the Operating System to  
manage file access;  
the one or more processors making an Operating System call to perform a file operation  
on the file representing the resource, wherein the Operating System call uses the  
access identifier to gain access to the file representing the resource; and  
the one or more processors granting the user access to the resource only when the  
Operating System call successfully performs the file operation on the file  
representing the resource, wherein the Operating System call successfully  
performs the file operation if the access identifier matches the access value;  
wherein the file operation on the file representing the resource is selected from a group  
consisting of opening the file, closing the file, deleting the file, reading from the  
file, writing to the file, executing the file, appending to the file, reading a file  
attribute, and writing a file attribute.

11. (original) A method as recited in Claim 10, wherein the access identifier comprises:  
a first set of bits for storing the role identifier, wherein the role identifier represents a  
bitmap, each bit of the bitmap uniquely associated with a role of the user; and  
a second set of bits for storing the resource identifier.

12. (previously presented) A method as recited in Claim 10, wherein the step of making an Operating System call to perform an operation on the file representing the resource comprises:  
  
storing the group identifier value of a group identifier attribute of an Operating System process;  
  
assigning the access identifier to the group identifier attribute of the Operating System process;  
  
calling an Operating System routine from the Operating System process to perform the operation on the file representing the resource, wherein the operation on the file representing the resource is performed only when the value of the group identifier attribute of the Operating System process matches the value of the group identifier file attribute of the file representing the resource; and  
  
resetting the group identifier attribute of the Operating System process to the stored group identifier value.
13. (original) A method as recited in Claim 10, wherein the step of making an Operating System call to perform an operation on the file representing the resource comprises comparing the access identifier to an identifier included in an Access Control List file attribute associated with the file representing the resource, wherein the Access Control List file attribute includes the identifiers of all users and all groups of users allowed to access the file representing the resource.
14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) A method as recited in Claim 10, the method further comprising the steps of:  
  
reading a permission bit associated with the file representing the resource, wherein the permission bit corresponds to a file operation performable on the file representing the resource;  
  
based on the file operation indicated by the permission bit, determining a resource operation that is performable on the resource; and  
  
granting the user the privilege of performing the resource operation on the resource only when the permission bit allows the file operation to be performed on the file representing the resource.
16. (previously presented) A method as recited in Claim 10, the method further comprising the steps of:  
  
opening the file representing the resource;  
  
reading from the file representing the resource a permission indicator associated with a resource operation; and  
  
granting the user the privilege of performing the resource operation on the resource only when the permission indicator indicates that the user is allowed to perform the resource operation on the resource.
17. (canceled)
18. (previously presented) A system for controlling access to a resource, of a plurality of resources, connected to a network, the system comprising:

a client host capable of accessing the resource in response to a request for access from a user;

one or more processors executing an Operating System, wherein the Operating System operatively controls a filesystem that includes a number of files; and

a computer readable medium having stored therein an Application Programming Interface, wherein the Application Programming Interface is logically interposed between the client host and the Operating System and comprises one or more routines including routines which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

creating and storing in the filesystem a plurality of files that each represents a different resource of the plurality of resources;

assigning an access value to a file attribute of a file that represents the resource, wherein the file attribute is used by the Operating System to manage file access, wherein the access value corresponds to a combination of a particular role and the resource;

receiving user-identifying information from the user requesting access to the resource, wherein the user-identifying information comprises a role associated with the user, wherein the role is determined from a user identifier uniquely associated with the user and from a group identifier associated with a group that includes the user;

receiving a resource identifier associated with the resource;

creating an access identifier based on the user-identifying information and the resource identifier, wherein the access identifier is formatted as a file attribute that is used by the Operating System to manage file access;



calling the Operating System to perform a file operation on the file, wherein

calling the Operating System includes [[by]] providing the access

identifier to the Operating System; and

granting the user access to the resource only when the Operating System call

successfully performs the file operation, wherein the Operating System

call successfully performs the file operation if the access identifier

matches the access value;

wherein the file operation on the file representing the resource is selected from a

group consisting of opening the file, closing the file, deleting the file,

reading from the file, writing to the file, executing the file, appending to

the file, reading a file attribute, and writing a file attribute.

19. (original) A system as recited in Claim 18, wherein the access identifier comprises:  
a first set of bits for storing a role identifier, wherein the role identifier is associated with  
the role; and  
a second set of bits for storing the resource identifier.
20. (original) A system as recited in Claim 18, wherein:  
the step of creating an access identifier based on the user-identifying information and the  
resource identifier comprises formatting the access identifier as a group identifier  
file attribute; and  
the step of calling the Operating System to perform an operation on the file representing  
the resource comprises:

assigning the access identifier to a group identifier attribute of an Operating System process; and  
calling an Operating System routine from the Operating System process to perform the operation on the file representing the resource.

21-38. (canceled)

39. (previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium, for controlling access to a resource of a plurality of resources, carrying one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
- creating and storing in a filesystem of an Operating System a plurality of files that each represents a different resource of the plurality of resources;
- assigning an access value to a file attribute of a file that represents the resource, wherein the file attribute is used by the Operating System to manage file access, wherein the access value corresponds to a combination of a particular role and the resource;
- receiving user-identifying information from a user requesting access to the resource, wherein the user-identifying information comprises a role associated with the user, wherein the role is determined from a user identifier uniquely associated with the user and from a group identifier associated with a group that includes the user;
- receiving a resource identifier associated with the resource;

creating an access identifier based on the user-identifying information and the resource identifier, wherein the access identifier is formatted as a file attribute that is used by the Operating System to manage file access;

calling the Operating System to perform a file operation on the file, wherein calling the Operating System includes providing the access identifier to the Operating System; and

granting the user access to the resource only when the Operating System call successfully performs the file operation, wherein the Operating System call successfully performs the file operation if the access identifier matches the access value;

wherein the file operation on the file representing the resource is selected from a group consisting of opening the file, closing the file, deleting the file, reading from the file, writing to the file, executing the file, appending to the file, reading a file attribute, and writing a file attribute.

40. (previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 39, wherein the access identifier comprises:
- a first set of bits for storing a role identifier, wherein the role identifier is associated with the role; and
- a second set of bits for storing the resource identifier.
41. (previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 39, wherein:

the step of creating an access identifier based on the user-identifying information and the resource identifier comprises formatting the access identifier as a group identifier file attribute; and

the step of calling the Operating System to perform an operation on the file representing the resource comprises:

assigning the access identifier to a group identifier attribute of an Operating System process; and

calling an Operating System routine from the Operating System process to perform the operation on the file representing the resource.

42. (previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 39, wherein the step of calling the Operating System to perform an operation on the file representing the resource comprises comparing the access identifier to an identifier included in an Access Control List file attribute associated with the file representing the resource, wherein the Access Control List file attribute includes the identifiers of all users and all groups of users allowed to access the file representing the resource.
43. (canceled)
44. (previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 39, carrying one or more additional sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, further causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

- reading a permission bit associated with the file representing the resource, wherein the permission bit corresponds to a file operation performable on the file representing the resource;
- based on the file operation indicated by the permission bit, determining a resource operation that is performable on the resource; and
- granting the user the privilege of performing the resource operation on the resource only when the permission bit allows the file operation to be performed on the file representing the resource.
45. (previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 39, carrying one or more additional sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, further causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of: opening the file representing the resource;
- reading from the file representing the resource a permission indicator associated with a resource operation; and
- enabling the user to perform the resource operation on the resource only when the permission indicator indicates that the user is allowed to perform the resource operation on the resource.
46. (canceled)
47. (previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 39, wherein the file attribute used by the Operating System to manage file access is a group identifier file attribute.

48. (previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium, for controlling access to a resource of a plurality of resources, carrying one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
- assigning an access value to a group identifier file attribute of a file that represents the resource, wherein the group identifier file attribute is used by the Operating System to manage file access, wherein the access value is uniquely determined by a combination of a particular role and the resource;
- receiving a user identifier from a user requesting access to the resource, wherein the user identifier is uniquely associated with the user;
- receiving a group identifier associated with a group to which the user belongs;
- based on the user identifier and the group identifier, determining a role associated with the user, wherein a role identifier is uniquely associated with the role;
- receiving a resource identifier associated with the resource, wherein each resource of the plurality of resources is represented by a different file stored in a filesystem of an Operating System;
- constructing an access identifier on the basis of the role identifier and the resource identifier, wherein the access identifier conforms to the format of a group identifier file attribute that is used by the Operating System to manage file access;
- making an Operating System call to perform a file operation on the file representing the resource, wherein the Operating System call uses the access identifier to gain access to the file representing the resource; and

granting the user access to the resource only when the Operating System call successfully performs the file operation on the file representing the resource, wherein the Operating System call successfully performs the file operation if the access identifier matches the access value;

wherein the file operation on the file representing the resource is selected from a group consisting of opening the file, closing the file, deleting the file, reading from the file, writing to the file, executing the file, appending to the file, reading a file attribute, and writing a file attribute.

49. (previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 48, wherein the access identifier comprises:
- a first set of bits for storing the role identifier, wherein the role identifier represents a bitmap, each bit of the bitmap uniquely associated with a role of the user; and
- a second set of bits for storing the resource identifier.
50. (previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 48, wherein the step of making an Operating System call to perform an operation on the file representing the resource comprises:
- storing the group identifier value of a group identifier attribute of an Operating System process;
- assigning the access identifier to the group identifier attribute of the Operating System process;
- calling an Operating System routine from the Operating System process to perform the operation on the file representing the resource, wherein the operation on the file

representing the resource is performed only when the value of the group identifier attribute of the Operating System process matches the value of the group identifier file attribute of the file representing the resource; and  
resetting the group identifier attribute of the Operating System process to the stored group identifier value.

51. (previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 48, wherein the step of making an Operating System call to perform an operation on the file representing the resource comprises comparing the access identifier to an identifier included in an Access Control List file attribute associated with the file representing the resource, wherein the Access Control List file attribute includes the identifiers of all users and all groups of users allowed to access the file representing the resource.
52. (canceled)
53. (previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 48, carrying one or more additional sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, further causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of:  
reading a permission bit associated with the file representing the resource, wherein the permission bit corresponds to a file operation performable on the file representing the resource;  
based on the file operation indicated by the permission bit, determining a resource operation that is performable on the resource; and



granting the user the privilege of performing the resource operation on the resource only  
when the permission bit allows the file operation to be performed on the file  
representing the resource.

54. (previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 48,  
carrying one or more additional sequences of instructions which, when executed by one  
or more processors, further causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of:  
opening the file representing the resource;  
reading from the file representing the resource a permission indicator associated with a  
resource operation; and  
granting the user the privilege of performing the resource operation on the resource only  
when the permission indicator indicates that the user is allowed to perform the  
resource operation on the resource.

55. (canceled)

56. (previously presented) An apparatus for controlling access to a resource of a plurality of  
resources, comprising:  
means for creating and storing in an Operating System filesystem a plurality of files that  
each represents a different resource of the plurality of resources;  
means for assigning an access value to a file attribute of a file that represents the  
resource, wherein the file attribute is used by the Operating System to manage file  
access, wherein the access value corresponds to a combination of a particular role  
and the resource;

means for receiving user-identifying information from a user requesting access to the resource, wherein the user-identifying information comprises a role associated with the user, wherein the role is determined from a user identifier uniquely associated with the user and from a group identifier associated with a group that includes the user;

means for receiving a resource identifier associated with the resource;

means for creating an access identifier based on the user-identifying information and the resource identifier, wherein the access identifier is formatted as a file attribute that is used by the Operating System to manage file access;

means for calling the Operating System to perform a file operation on the file, wherein calling the Operating System includes providing the access identifier to the Operating System; and

means for granting the user access to the resource only when the Operating System call successfully performs the file operation, wherein the Operating System call successfully performs the file operation if the access identifier matches the access value;

wherein the file operation on the file representing the resource is selected from a group consisting of opening the file, closing the file, deleting the file, reading from the file, writing to the file, executing the file, appending to the file, reading a file attribute, and writing a file attribute.

57. (previously presented) An apparatus as recited in Claim 56, wherein the access identifier comprises:

a first set of bits for storing a role identifier, wherein the role identifier is associated with  
the role; and  
a second set of bits for storing the resource identifier.

58. (previously presented) An apparatus as recited in Claim 56, wherein:  
means for creating an access identifier based on the user-identifying information and the  
resource identifier comprises means for formatting the access identifier as a group  
identifier file attribute; and  
means for calling the Operating System to perform an operation on the file representing  
the resource comprises:  
means for assigning the access identifier to a group identifier attribute of  
an Operating System process; and  
means for calling an Operating System routine from the Operating System  
process to perform the operation on the file representing the  
resource.

59. (canceled)